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The Public Service Commission State of South Carolina

Jocelyn Boyd
Chief Clerk/Executive Director
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✓
M-2840
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Administrative Department
Phone: (803) 896-5100
Fax: (803) 896-5246

January 27, 2020

Charles Fisher
Columbia, SC

Dear Charles Fisher,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- [Docket No. 2019-281-S](#) - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2019-281-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/117238>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Becky Latimer



* Required Fields

Date: * 01/24/2020

Letter of Protest

Docket No. 2019-281-S

Protestant Information:

Name * Charles W Fisher

Mailing Address * _____

City, State Zip * Columbia, SC

Phone * _____

E-mail _____

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

Customer of Palmetto

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I own a house at the address above. The sewer provider is Palmetto. They charge \$52.10 per month for service. I own another house that is 2 miles away. It is serviced by East Richland for 87.68 per quarter. Palmetto is almost double the cost of East Richland for the same service. How can they possible request another increase?

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding, if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

Yes.

Signature Required:

Charles W Fisher

✓
M

Latimer, Becky

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 2:05 PM
To:
Subject: 2019-281-S

Dear Donna Sims,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

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If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Becky Latimer



* Required Fields

Date: * 25 Jan. 2020

Letter of Protest

Docket No. 2019-281-6

Protestant Information:

Name * Donna Sims

Mailing Address * _____

City, State Zip * Columbia, SC

E-mail _____

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am a customer of Palmetto Utilities.

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am expressing my concern for the rate hike. I absolutely DO NOT agree with it. The citizens that live in the area did not ask for a separate company to takeover the sewer bill. Many residents, to include myself, are envious of those that live in the City of Columbia municipalities because they are not faced with this dilemma. Please do not allow this to happen. Many retirees reside outside of the city and can not afford a rate increase of this magnitude. The citizens have already had to deal with the Dominion Merger and the increase in the city water bill. It is understood that rates do increase over time, however; this is ridiculous and outrageous! Increase should happen in small increments or based upon a resident's extreme usage.

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding, if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

No I do not wish to offer sworn testimony.

Signature Required: _____

Donna Sims

Easterling, Deborah

From: Easterling, Deborah
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 9:21 AM
To: Helen Brooks
Subject: RE: [External] LETTER OF PROTEST OF PALMETTO UTILITIES
Attachments: 2019-281-S NOH.pdf

Dear Ms. Brooks,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

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I have attached the Notice of Hearing for this Docket to this email.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling
 Executive Assistant

From: Helen Brooks <h.brooks@psc.sc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 5:03 PM
To: PSC_Contact <Contact@psc.sc.gov>
Subject: [External] LETTER OF PROTEST OF PALMETTO UTILITIES

HELEN BROOKS



Save as PDF file and Email form
to: contact@psc.sc.gov

* Required Fields

Letter of Protest
Docket No. 2019-281-S

Date: * 01092020

Protestant Information:

Name *

Helen H. Brooks

Mailing Address *

City, State Zip *

Columbia

SC 29202

Phone *

E-mail

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am a customer of Palmetto Utilities, the subject of this pending proceeding. I live in the Brookstone subdivision that uses the services of this company.

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am protesting the increase because it is unfair to charge me as I household the same rate as you charge a household of 10 that uses the same sewer services.

Many of the customers of Palmetto Utilities are RETIRED and live on limited income of SOCIAL SECURITY AND SMALL PENSIONS!

Palmetto Utilities has increased the rate to over \$50.00 in the last 2 years, since I purchased my home in 2017. When I purchased my home, the sewer rate was about 20.00 . This was based on the usage of individual household usage. In 2018 Palmetto Utilities increased the rate to \$52.10 per month, charging every household the same , regardless of sewer usage. Now, 2020, Palmetto Utilities want to increase the rate to \$66.62.

A household of 1 should not be paying the same cost for sewer removal as a household of 10.

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding , if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

Yes. I wish to appear and speak at this proceeding to offer sworn testimony. Please notify me by
c you.

1.net, text, or

Signature Required: _____

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CLERK'S OFFICE

REVISED NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING AND PREFILE TESTIMONY DEADLINES

DOCKET NO. 2019-281-S

APPLICATION OF PALMETTO UTILITIES, INC. FOR AN INCREASE OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE PROVISION OF SEWER SERVICE AND MODIFICATIONS TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PROVISION OF SEWER SERVICE

Palmetto Utilities, Inc. (the Company) has filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for an increase of the Company's rates and charges for the provision of sewer service and modifications to certain terms and conditions of the provision of its service. The Company is a public utility, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-10(4) (2015), providing sewer service to the public for compensation in certain areas of Richland and Kershaw counties, South Carolina, pursuant to rates set by the Commission in Docket No. 2017-228-S.

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-240 (2015) and S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-512.4.A and 103-503 (2012), the Company requests that the Commission approve an increase in its monthly sewer service rates and the adoption of a charge for tampering with Company facilities and equipment. The Company also seeks modifications to certain terms and conditions of its rate schedule, including circumstances when the proposed tampering charge may be imposed and the adoption of language limiting the Company's liability for interruption of, or failure to provide, service in certain circumstances.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES ARE SET FORTH BELOW

(The complete rate schedule is available from the Company at the address below and on the Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov)

Palmetto Utilities Residential Monthly Charges	Current	Proposed
Residential monthly charge Per single-family house, condominium, villa, or apartment unit	\$52.10	\$66.62

THE COMPANY STATES IN ITS APPLICATION THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER A PHASE-IN OF APPROVED ADDITIONAL ANNUAL REVENUE OVER SOME PERIOD OF TIME TO LIMIT THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RATE ADJUSTMENT.

*Charges for commercial establishments served by the Company are based upon single family equivalency (SFE) ratings set using wastewater treatment plant capacity design loading factors established in S.C. Code Regs. 61-67, Appendix A.

**All commercial customers will pay based on a minimum SFE rating of one (1), which is \$66.62 per month. Some commercial customers will have minimum SFE ratings greater than one (1).

If the Application or Petition in this case contains a request for adjustment of rates, the rates are subject to potential modification by the Commission during the course of this case.

A copy of the Company's Application can be found on the Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov under Docket No. 2019-281-S. Additionally, a copy of the application is available from the office of John M. S. Hoefer, Esquire, Willoughby & Hoefer, P.A, P. O. Box 8416, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter as a party of record should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before **January 21, 2020**, by filing the Petition to Intervene with the Commission, by providing a copy to the Office of Regulatory Staff and by providing a copy to all parties of record. For the receipt of future Commission correspondence, please include an email address in the Petition to Intervene. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2019-81-S and mail a copy to all other parties in this docket.*** Any person who seeks to intervene and who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify, in writing, the Commission; the Office of Regulatory Staff at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201; and the company at the above address, on or before **January 21, 2020. Please refer to Docket No. 2019-281-S.**

Any person who wishes to request that the Commission hold a public hearing in his or her county of residence in order to hear comments from the utility's customers should notify, in writing, the Commission at the address below; the Office of Regulatory Staff, at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201; and the company at the above address, on or before **February 3, 2020.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-817 and S.C. Code Ann. §58-5-240, on the above matter has been scheduled to begin on **April 28, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.**, before the Commission in the Commission's Hearing Room at 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Saluda Building, Columbia, South Carolina, 29210 for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence from all interested parties. The hearing may continue through April 29, 2020, if necessary.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORDS (Applicant, Petitioners, and Intervenors only): All parties of Record must prefile testimony with the Commission and serve all Parties of Records. Prefiled Testimony Deadlines: Applicant's **Direct Testimony** Due: **03/10/2020**; Other Parties of Record **Direct Testimony** Due: **03/31/2020**; Applicant's **Rebuttal Testimony** Due: **04/14/2020**; and Other Parties of Record **Surrebuttal Testimony** Due **04/21/2020**. All prefiled testimony deadlines are subject to the information as posted on www.psc.sc.gov under Docket No. 2019-281-S.

For the most recent information regarding this docket, including changes in the scheduled dates included in this notice, please refer to www.psc.sc.gov and Docket No. 2019-281-S.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments, in person, to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's Procedures should contact the Commission at 803-896-5100 or visit its website at www.psc.sc.gov.

12/23/2019